

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3609
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2001
DISCOVERY OF ATOMIC ELEMENTS
NANDIPAKU VENKATASWAMY

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether atomic particles have been identified on the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to permit private organisations to extract these elements; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINIS OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Atomic minerals (listed in part (B) of the first schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957) include ilmenite, rutile (titanium ore minerals), zircon (zirconium ore mineral), monazite (thorium and rare earth elements bearing mineral). These minerals occur as loose unconsolidated grains all along the coastal tracts of the country including the state of Andhra Pradesh. Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) of DAE, during the last 5 decades, has identified and evaluated the following mineral deposits in the 982 KM long coastal stretches of Andhra Pradesh.

ATOMIC MINERALS	RESERVES IN MILLION TONNES
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Ilmenite	100.10
Rutile	4.42
Zircon	4.43
Monazite	2.29

(c) & (d) In tune with the general policy of decontrol and liberalisation, the Government of India vide Resolution of 6th October 1998 has notified a modified policy on exploitation of beach sand minerals, according to which wholly owned Indian companies are allowed to engage in mining and mineral separation activities after obtaining requisite mining lease from the State Government concerned and a licence from the Department of Atomic Energy. Similarly Joint Venture Companies (including with foreign direct investment upto 74%) are also allowed to set up facilities for value addition to the minerals or integrated facilities for mining, mineral separation and value addition.